(c) whether Government have taken any policy decision in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI P.. CHIDAMBARAM): *(a)* Scientific posts have not been taken out of the purview of the UPSC recently.

(b) the question of reasons, therefore, does not arise.

As regards posts exempted during the last three years, all Group A and Group B scientific and technical posts in the Defence Research and Development Organisation were exempted in >May 1985. Similar posts in the Department of Non-Conventional Energy Sources were also exempted upto 14th May. 1986.

(c) A policy decision has been taken by the Government to exempt scientific posts in the Scientific Departments from the purview of the UPSC with a view to providing them a better executive support system for result-oriented and time-bound programmes of scientific research and technological development.

Arrests made in Jammu and Kashmir during the President's Rule

*252. SHRI DHARAM CHANDER PRASHANT; Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of arrests made of persons who indulged in subversive ac tivities and delivered provocative spee ches during the recent President's rule in Jammu and Kashmir; and

(b) the number out of them who have been detained on the grounds of Security?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI BUTA SINGH): (a) and (b) According to the information received from the Government of Jammu and Kashmir 270 persons were arrested during the President's rule for subversive activities. Besides, 9 persons were detained on grounds of security under Jammu and Kashmir Public Safety Act.

Preservation of Tropical Rain Forest

*253. DR. R. K. PODDAR: SHRI MOSTAFA BIN QUASEM:

Will the MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a)' whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news item which appeared in the Financial Express of 9th October, 1986 regarding fast disappearance of tropical rain forests;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) what are the details of Government plans to preserve the fast receding tropical rain forests of the country so as to keep ecosystems infact?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BHAJAN LAL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The News item refers to world wide loss of at least 40 per cent of tropical rain forests in the last 30 years. Tropical rain forests is the popular name for evergreen forests. In India, evergreen forest$_s$ are confined to Assam, Arunachal Pradesh, Andaman and Nicobar Islands, Kerala and Karnataka. The National Remote Sensing Agency reports indicate that there has been no decrease in forest area In Arunachal Pradesh and Andaman and Nicobar Islands. The decrease in the total forests area in Assam, Kerala and Karnataka has been by 5. 9 per cent, 14. 34 per cent and 12. 97 per cent, respectively.

(e) To preserve evergreen forests the Government plans:

(1) to reduce the diversion of such forests to non-forests uso to a bare